

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A means for enabling actuation of a pointing device comprising:

an activity sensor for sensing activation of the pointing device;

wherein the activity sensor comprises a detector device for sensing a capacitance change at the pointing device;

wherein the activity sensor further comprises a threshold comparator connected to receive an output of the detector device; and

wherein the activity sensor is adapted to enable energization of the pointing device when the sensed activation of the pointing device exceeds a threshold, and the activity sensor further comprises a timer adapted to switch off the energization of the pointing device after a time has elapsed without any sensed activation of the pointing device.

2. (Previously presented) The means for enabling actuation of the pointing device according to claim 1, wherein the threshold is adjustable.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The means for enabling actuation of the pointing device according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the time is adjustable.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The means for enabling actuation of the pointing device according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the detector device comprises an oscillator with a resonant circuit.

7. (Previously presented) The means for enabling actuation of the pointing device according to claim 6, wherein the capacitance of the pointing device forms part of the resonant circuit.

8. (Currently amended) The means for enabling actuation of the pointing device according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the detector device comprises a high impedance amplifier.

9. (Currently amended) An input device comprising:
a pointing device;
an activity sensor for sensing activation of the pointing device;
wherein the activity sensor comprises a detector device for sensing a capacitance change in the pointing device;
wherein the activity sensor further comprises a threshold comparator connected to receive an output of the detector device; and
wherein the activity sensor is adapted to enable energization of the pointing device when the sensed activation of the pointing device exceeds a threshold, and the activity sensor further comprises a timer adapted to switch off the energization of the pointing device after a time has elapsed without any sensed activation of the pointing device.

10. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein the threshold is adjustable.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The device according to claim [[11]] 9, wherein the time is adjustable.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The device according to claim [[13]] 9, wherein the pointing device comprises a ball capacitively connected to the detector device.

15. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the ball is a metallized plastic ball with a plastic or rubber coating.

16. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 14 wherein the detector device comprises an oscillator with a resonant circuit, wherein a capacitance of the ball forms a part of the resonant circuit.

17. (Currently amended) The device according to claim [[13]] 9, wherein the detector device comprises a high impedance amplifier.

18. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 9 further comprising:

a display for showing menus in which navigation may be performed by means of the input device.

19. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 18, wherein the the device is a mobile telephone.

20. (New) The device according to claim 9, wherein:
the pointing device includes a user-manipulable member having a conductive part covered by a non-conductive cover;
the activity sensor further comprises a resonant circuit that is capacitively coupled to the conductive part of the user-manipulable member by a member disposed with respect to the user-manipulable member, the resonant circuit having a frequency that changes when a finger of a user approaches or touches the user-manipulable member by establishment of a capacitance between the finger and the conductive part; and

the detector device detects the capacitance change by detecting the change in frequency of the resonant circuit and an output of the threshold comparator activates movement sensing of the user-manipulable member.

21. (New) The device according to claim 20, wherein the user-manipulable member is a ball.

22. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein the conductive part is a metallized layer that covers a core of the ball and the metallized layer is covered by the non-conductive cover.

23. (New) The device according to claim 20, wherein the member disposed with respect to the user-manipulable member is an antenna or pick-up.

24. (New) The device according to claim 20, wherein the member disposed with respect to the user-manipulable member is spaced apart from the non-conductive cover.